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Panel 5 Approaches to Using the Year 2000 Problem in Information Systems Courses

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PANEL 5

APPROACHES TO USING THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS COURSES

Chair: Michael Vitale, University of Melbourne, Australia

Panelists: Ben Light, Manchester Business School, England
Gerald Knolmayer, University of Bern, Switzerland
John Mooney, University College Dublin, Ireland

The Year 2000 (Y2K) problem is real, and by this time it is clear that the question is not whether there are going to be difficulties, but how severe the inevitable difficulties are going to be. Articles about Y2K appear in the popular press on a daily basis, and web sites related to the issue continue to proliferate. This popular attention offers an opportunity, and perhaps an obligation, to connect academic teaching and research with the real world. The goal of this panel is to illustrate and encourage the incorporation of the Y2K problem into university information systems courses at all levels.

Although the panel will take place in December 1998, its message will still have relevance, for the Year 2000 problem will not end in the year 2000. Moreover, many general topics can be approached via the Y2K issue, including IS planning, the role of IS standards, the potential benefits and pitfalls of IT outsourcing, and large-scale project management. Finally, the Year 2000 problem is an example of the kind of challenge regarding building and maintaining IT infrastructure that IS managers will increasingly face in the future.

The format of the panel is simple. After a brief introduction by the chair, each panelist will be given 15 minutes to discuss how he has used the Year 2000 problem in IS teaching. These brief presentations will include the panelist's goal(s) for including this topic, the way(s) in which the topic was used, the amount of preparation required on the part of teacher and students, the lessons learned, and the outcomes achieved. The panelists and their specific topics are listed below.

The format will allow ample time for questions and discussion after the formal presentations. Each panelist will also provide sample materials, which will be available as handouts at the panel session and on the Internet following the Conference.

PANELISTS AND THEIR TOPICS

Ben Light, Manchester Business School, Manchester, England.

- Using business strategies to overcome the Y2K and Euro problem
- Incorporating "real-world" experience with the Y2K problem into teaching

Gerald Knolmayer, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

- Including Y2K in the undergraduate IS curriculum
- Developing and delivering courses for practitioners

John Mooney, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

- Adding Y2K to a course on legacy systems
- Creating partnerships with industry for Y2K course delivery